

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/2028

12 April 2018

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Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
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Redhill, RH1 9FL

By e-mail: southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Application: 18/02228/LBC

Site: Noel Coward Theatre 85-89 St Martin's Lane London WC2N 4AU

Proposal: Works to external steps and thresholds, and installation of two brass hand rails to principle entrance.

Remit:

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

Comment:

Thank you for consulting the Theatres Trust on the above application.

The Trust actively encourages theatre owners and operators to invest in their buildings to ensure they meet current building and safety standards and the expectations of audiences, staff, and performers. We note from observation and the documentation accompanying this application that the steps at the Noel Coward Theatre have suffered some damage from wear.

We welcome that the principal steps will be repaired on a like-for-like basis with the addition of black carborundum strips to the front to increase visibility and brass studs to prevent slipping. Rails are proposed to the left and right of the main entry to help provide additional assistance to visitors that need it, which we support. We do not consider these rails to unduly impact on the building's appearance, nonetheless they will be reversible.

We also support that the Portland stone to the side thresholds will be scabbled flat with a 1% slope to facilitate drainage away from the theatre, and that the DDA-compliant entrance will be

Theatres Trust

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

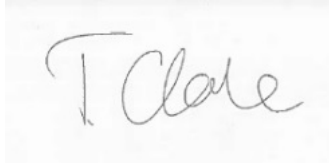
The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

scrabbled to bring it flush to the existing pavement thus enhancing access.

We therefore **recommend the granting of listed building consent.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'C'.

Tom Clarke
National Planning Adviser